

## IT IS CLAIMED:

1. A transgenic plant comprising a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes or is complementary to a sequence that encodes a DRO2 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an ortholog thereof, wherein said transgenic plant has increased drought tolerance relative to control plants.
2. The transgenic plant of Claim 1 wherein the transformation vector comprises a constitutive promoter that controls expression of the DRO2 polypeptide or ortholog.
3. A method of producing increased drought tolerance in a plant, said method comprising:
  - a) introducing into progenitor cells of the plant a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes or is complementary to a sequence that encodes a DRO2 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an ortholog thereof, and
  - b) growing the transformed progenitor cells to produce a transgenic plant, wherein said polynucleotide sequence is expressed, and said transgenic plant exhibits increased drought tolerance.
4. The method of Claim 3 wherein a DRO2 polypeptide is over-expressed in the transgenic plant.
5. A plant obtained by a method of Claim 3.
6. A plant part obtained from a plant according to Claim 5.